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IN THE U.S. PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Joseph S. Shabtai et al)
Serial No.: 10/080,082) Group Art Unit: Not Yet Accorded
Filed: February 21, 2002) Examiner: Not Yet Accorded
Title: Process for Converting Lignins) Atty. Dkt. No.: NREL 01-01 CIP
Into a High Octane Blending)
Component)

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT UNDER 37 § CFR 1.115

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent & Trademark Office
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

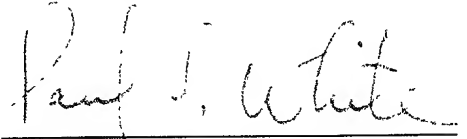
Prior to action on the merits, Applicant requests that the above-identified application be amended under 37 § CFR 1.115 to include informal drawing Figures 1a, 1b, 2, 3, 4, and 5, which were inadvertently omitted at the time of filing.

REMARKS

The application has been amended as noted above to include 6 sheets of drawings comprising Figures 1a, 1b, 2, 3, 4, and 5, which were inadvertently omitted at the time of filing. Support for the inclusion of these figures is found in the Specification on pages 4 and 5 under the heading "Brief Description of the Drawings" and throughout the balance of the application as originally filed. It is believed that no new matter is being introduced by this preliminary amendment.

Timely examination on the merits is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Paul J. White", written over a horizontal line.

Paul J. White, Reg. No. 30,436
Attorney for Applicants

Date: May 10, 2002.

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